# Indiana's Response to Intervention Academy

## Looking through a culturally responsive lens.

Shana Ritter

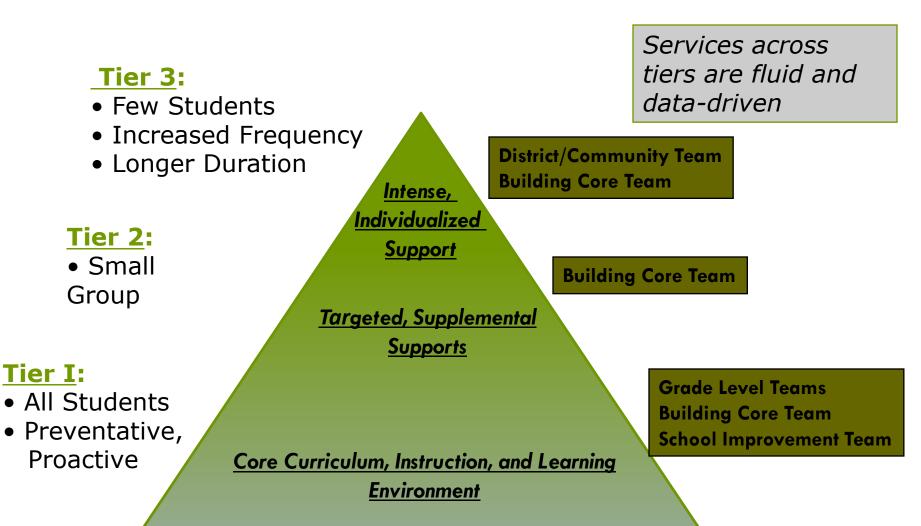
The Equity Project rritter@indiana.edu

Supported by a grant through the Indiana Department of Education and offered through the Collaborative Problem Solving Project at the Blumberg Center at Indiana State University

#### Components to Consider

- Leadership
- Evidence-based core curriculum, instruction, & interventions/extensions
- Assessment and progress monitoring system
- Data-based decision making
- Cultural responsivity
- □ Family, community & school partnerships

## Integrated System for Academic and Behavioral Supports



#### Leadership

- Who's at the table? Who is not?
- How do we include the voices of all stakeholders?
- Does the leadership reflect the community?

### Evidence-based core curriculum, instruction, & interventions/extensions

- How do our practices in curriculum and instruction acknowledge students' differences as well as their similarities?
- How do we validate students' cultural identity?
- In what ways do we encourage students to think critically?

#### Assessment and progress monitoring system

- How do we assess students' achievement and ability validly?
- How do we assess our instruction, curriculum and interventions do be sure they are working for all students?

#### Data-based decision making

- Do we disaggregate all our data?
- Do we analyze our data with cultural lenses?
- Have we dug into the data?
- Whose hypothesis do we bring to the table when we make decisions based on our data?

#### Cultural responsivity

- Do we recognize that cultural responsivity is a developmental process?
- How do we assure that cultural responsivity is an ongoing part of our professional development?
- How does our own culture influence the way we teach?
- In what ways do we provide opportunities for reflective practice?

#### Family, community & school partnerships

- What are our expectations for partnering with families and the community?
- How did we arrive at these expectations?
- What do we know about our families, their community, and the community in which our school is located?
- In what ways do we differentiate our communication?

#### Examples of cultural responsivity in practice:

#### Leadership -

- Diverse voices are brought to the table through diverse means:
  - focus groups
  - surveys
  - phone calls
  - meetings held in different locations and at different times.

How else can we assure cultural responsivity in leadership?

## Evidence-based core curriculum, instruction, & interventions/extensions

- Collaborative groupings are utilized in various ways
- Textbooks and activities are culturally supportive of students
- Respect for diversity is actively taught
- Students learn to set their own goals

In what other ways can we ensure cultural responsivity in this area?

#### Assessment and progress monitoring system

- Students monitor their own progress
- Assessment tools are varied

What do we need to know to assure assessment and progress monitoring are culturally responsive?

#### Data-based decision making

- Data is in an accessible form, disaggregated, accurate and current
- Data is a tool that is used to tell a story about our students, our practices and how we can achieve success

How will we know if the hypothesis we develop concerning our data are culturally responsive?

#### Cultural responsivity

- Teachers and administrators recognize their own cultural lenses
- Teachers and administrators know their students as individuals, as members of a family, and as part of a larger cultural group

In what ways can we consistently develop as culturally responsive educators?

#### Family, community & school partnerships

- Schools create pathways for ongoing two way communication
- Families and the community are involved in informing discussions before decisions are made

How do we incorporate our families and communities in meaningful ways?

#### Indiana's Vision of RTI

In order to ensure success for all our students each of the core areas of RTI incorporate a culturally responsive lens as an active and ongoing component for all aspects of teaching and learning.

#### Three quotes to take home

- If our examination and understanding of the root causes of social inequality are too shallow, then our approach to corrective action will necessarily be superficial and ineffective.
  - Christine Sleeter

Culturally responsive teachers not only know their students well, they use what they know about their students to give them access to learning.

Villegas & Lucas

I've come to believe there are only two things you need in any new teaching situation to succeed—humility and inquiry.

Lisa Delpit